- The proposal for amendment to the Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929 is presently under consideration of the Goverment which would help in better implementation of the Act.
- NHRC is also taking steps at its level to address the issue.
- A strong media campaign is being launched by the Department of Women and Child Development especially to target prevention of child marriages in the festival season of Akshaya Teej.
- During 2002-03 and 2003-04, the National Commission for Women launched Bal Vivah Virodhi Abhiyan and in 2004-2005 the Commission has asked the State Goverments to take steps to curb child marriages.
- The Commission is also collaborating with State Goverments and State Women Commissions for launching the Bal Vivah Virodhi Abhiyan and putting efforts to generate awareness this social evil.
- The States have also been requested to furnish the details of incidence of child marriages in their States, number of cases, efforts made by the State Goverment and the NGOs working in the area.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Jharkhand

2787. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether programmes/schemes under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have been under implementation in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the situation in the urban and rural areas; seperately

(c) whether any review of its progress, namely quality of implementation reduction or otherwise of school dropout rate, enhancement of school infrastructure and teacher-student ratio etc., has been carried out in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;and

(e) the steps contemplated if any, towards achieving the goals of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan especially to bring a larger number of children under school curriculum and minimize drop out rate in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented in all the districts in Jharkhand. The State Government has constructed 226 school buildings and 11284 additional classrooms under SSA, so far. Drinking water facility in 3447 schools and toilet facilities in 4968 schools have been provided. 729508 children have been enrolled in Education Guarantee Scheme Centres. The Pupil-Teacher Ratio as per reports of the State Government is 47:1. The number of teachers appointed by the State Government under SSA, so far is 31303.

Opening of National Institute of Technology Institutions

2788. SHRIMATI. S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government had decided to open more National Institute of Technology Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to take over of engineering colleges to convert into NITs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Government of India has not decided to open more National Institutes of Technology (NITs) in the Country. However, on receipt of specific requests from State Govenrments for upgradation/conversion of the existing Engineering Colleges to that of NITs, the Central Government may consider such proposals. The Government of India conducts feasibility study and if the said Institute has adequate infrastructure facilities at par with the other National Institutes, its conversion/upgradation as NIT would be placed before the Union Cabinet for its consideration and approval.